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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

February 19, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 843 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PREL, PGOV
Captions: None
Subject: UAEG ASSURES ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT NOT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJORITY VIEW
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 00843

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: DCM P/M RSO AMB ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB: MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: POL: MMMENARD
CLEARED: A/DCM: TEWILLIAMS; POL: STWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI119
PP RUEHC RHEHNSC RUCNRAQ RUEHDE
DE RUEHAD #0843 0501329
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 191329Z FEB 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8469
INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 2806

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000843

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/19/08
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [AL](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAEG ASSURES ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJORITY VIEW

REF: CAIRO 1297

¶1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

¶2. (C) During a 19 February meeting with the Ambassador, MFA Asst U/S Abdullah Rashid Al-Nuaimi provided a candid readout on the Arab League Extraordinary Ministerial held in Cairo 15-16 February. Noting that he attended because he thought it would be a "good show", Al-Nuaimi commented that there was much disagreement at the Ministerial, which ended in frustration for most attendees.

3.(C) Al-Nuaimi stated that it became quickly apparent

there was no consensus on Iraq and the Ministers did not intend to issue a statement at the conclusion of the Ministerial. In the end it was pushed through by some, namely Syria with Lebanon for cover in the President's chair. The UAEG official commented that attendees allowed the statement's issuance, even though it did not reflect the opinion of the majority, because given the deep divisions "it's just a paper and doesn't mean much." Al-Nuaimi continued that "We all want a unified Arab position, but one that is realistic and not just rhetoric to be written in the newspapers. Now is not the time for such rhetoric!" Al-Nuaimi added that he doubted very much a Summit would be held at the end of the month. "There was total disagreement at the Ministerial level, why embarrass the Heads of State?"

WAHBA